

IV Potassium Chloride

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Policy/Purpose

Concentrated potassium may not be held for use in any clinical area to avoid inadvertent use and patient harm.

Premixed potassium will only be used according to below policy statements to uphold patient safety.

Scope

Prescribers, Pharmacy, Administrators, Unit/Ward areas

Policy statement

Concentrated Potassium

- Concentrated potassium chloride (10 mmol in 10 mL) may not be held for use in any clinical area of the CDHB
- Exceptions to these rulings will be considered following written application to the Chief Medical Officer. This is to include:
 - The reasons for an exception being required together with
 - The processes in place designed to prevent inadvertent administration of concentrated potassium chloride to any patient
- All charting of intravenously administered potassium chloride must be based on premix solutions available within the CDHB

Premixed Potassium

- An electronic pump must be used for all potassium infusions
- Cardiac monitoring is required for infusion rates = or above 20 mmol per hour
- Preparations greater than 10 mmol in 100 mL must be administered via a CVAD (Central Venous Access Device)

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Printed copies may not reflect the most recent updates.**

Measurement or evaluation

Pharmacy records

Record of exemption in areas approved to hold concentrated potassium

Incident management process

References

Health Quality Safety Commission

<http://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/Medication-Safety/Alerts-PR/Updated-Potassium-Chloride-Concentrated-Injection-Alert.pdf>

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Policy Owner	Medicines Advisory Committee Chair
Policy Authoriser	Chief Medical Officer & Executive Director of Nursing
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